

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A patch containing fentanyl for mucous membrane of the oral cavity, which comprises a drug layer, a support layer hardly soluble or insoluble in water comprising ethyl cellulose and hydroxypropyl methylcellulose, on the drug layer, and a backing on the support layer, wherein the drug layer ~~comprises~~ consists essentially of fentanyl or its salt as an active ingredient, methyl vinyl ether-maleic anhydride copolymer as an adhesive agent, and at least one substance selected from the group consisting of hydroxypropyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl methylcellulose and hydroxyethyl cellulose as a thickener.
2. (Original) The patch containing fentanyl for mucous membrane of the oral cavity according to claim 1, wherein the fentanyl salt is fentanyl citrate.
3. (Previously presented) The patch containing fentanyl for mucous membrane of the oral cavity according to claim 1, wherein the drug release rate from the drug layer is adjusted to become 50 % within one hour.
4. (Previously presented) The patch containing fentanyl for mucous membrane of the oral cavity according to claim 1, wherein the ratio of the adhesive and the thickener is a range selected from 5:95 to 97:3.
5. (Previously presented) The patch containing fentanyl for mucous membrane of the oral cavity according to claim 2, wherein the drug release rate from the drug layer is adjusted to become 50 % within one hour.
6. (Previously presented) The patch containing fentanyl for mucous membrane of the oral cavity according to claim 1, wherein the drug layer consists of fentanyl or its salt as an active ingredient, methyl vinyl ether-maleic anhydride copolymer as an adhesive agent, at least one substance selected from the group consisting of hydroxypropyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl methylcellulose and hydroxyethyl cellulose as a thickener, and further at least one member

selected from the group consisting of a softening agent, an absorption promoting agent and a sweetening agent.

7. (New) A patch containing fentanyl for mucous membrane of the oral cavity, which comprises a drug layer, a support layer hardly soluble or insoluble in water comprising ethyl cellulose and hydroxypropyl methylcellulose, on the drug layer, and a backing on the support layer, wherein the drug layer consists of fentanyl or its salt as an active ingredient, methyl vinyl ether-maleic anhydride copolymer as an adhesive agent, and at least one substance selected from the group consisting of hydroxypropyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl methylcellulose and hydroxyethyl cellulose as a thickener.

8. (New) A patch containing fentanyl for mucous membrane of the oral cavity, which comprises a drug layer, a support layer hardly soluble or insoluble in water comprising ethyl cellulose and hydroxypropyl methylcellulose, on the drug layer, and a backing on the support layer, wherein the drug layer consists essentially of fentanyl or its salt as an active ingredient, methyl vinyl ether-maleic anhydride copolymer as an adhesive agent, and at least one substance selected from the group consisting of hydroxypropyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl methylcellulose and hydroxyethyl cellulose as a thickener and further at least one member selected from the group consisting of a softening agent selected from glycerin and polyethylene glycol, an absorption promoting agent consisting of N-methyl-2-pyrrolidone and a sweetening agent.